AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1.-17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled) ~~A thrombin preparation comprising thrombin and a noncovalently binding inhibitor of thrombin activity as stabilizer, wherein the thrombin preparation is suitable for therapeutic purposes.~~

19. (Canceled) ~~The thrombin preparation as claimed in claim 18, which additionally comprises a soluble calcium salt, sodium chloride as stabilizer, a buffer substance, and further comprises at least one of~~

~~a sugar,~~

~~a sugar alcohol,~~

~~an amino acid,~~

~~a salt of a mono- or polycarboxylic acid, or~~

~~a salt of a mono- or polyhydroxycarboxylic acid,~~

~~wherein the thrombin preparation is stable in the liquid state.~~

20. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) A process for producing the thrombin preparation of claim 39, ~~a thrombin preparation,~~ comprising a prothrombin obtained from plasma or a plasma fraction, wherein, following activation of the

prothrombin to thrombin, and optionally further processing steps, the thrombin is purified by hydrophobic interaction chromatography.

21. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 20, wherein the prothrombin employed for activation to thrombin is subjected to inactivation or reduction of viruses during its production.

22. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 20, wherein the thrombin is subjected to inactivation or reduction of viruses before or after hydrophobic interaction chromatography.

23. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 20, additionally comprising cation exchange chromatography carried out before or after the hydrophobic interaction chromatography.

24. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 20, wherein the thrombin preparation is adjusted to a pH of from 5.0 to 8.0.

25. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 20, wherein a soluble calcium salt and sodium chloride as stabilizers, a buffer substance, and at least one of

a sugar,

a sugar alcohol,

an amino acid,

a salt of a mono- or polycarboxylic acid, or

a salt of a mono- or polyhydroxycarboxylic acid,

are added to the thrombin preparation.

26. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 20, wherein a noncovalently binding inhibitor of thrombin activity is added as a stabilizer.

27. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 26, wherein the noncovalently binding inhibitor of thrombin activity is benzamidine or p-aminobenzamidine.

28. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 20, wherein a gel with coupled hydrophobic radicals is employed as absorbent for the hydrophobic interaction chromatography.

29. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 28, wherein the hydrophobic radicals of the gel employed as absorbent are phenyl radicals or ligands of similar hydrophobicity.

30. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 20, additionally comprising filtration of the thrombin preparation through a membrane with a suitable pore size to remove viruses.

31. (Withdrawn) A thrombin preparation, which is obtainable by the process of claim 20.

32. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) A method of using the thrombin preparation of claim 39 ~~claim 18~~ as a hemostatic, a constituent of a hemostatic or as a constituent of tissue glue.

33. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) A method of using the thrombin preparation of claim 49 ~~claim 19~~ as a hemostatic, a constituent of a hemostatic or as a constituent of tissue glue.

34. (Withdrawn) A method of using the thrombin preparation of claim 31 as a hemostatic, a constituent of a hemostatic or as a constituent of tissue glue.

35. (Canceled) ~~The thrombin preparation of claim 18 wherein the noncovalently binding inhibitor of thrombin activity is benzamidine.~~

36. (Canceled) ~~The thrombin preparation of claim 18 wherein the noncovalently binding inhibitor of thrombin activity is p-aminobenzamidine.~~

37. (Canceled) ~~The thrombin preparation of claim 18 wherein, after 12 months of storage at 20-25 °C, the thrombin maintains at least 70% of its original level of activity.~~

38. (Canceled) ~~The thrombin preparation of claim 18 wherein the thrombin preparation has a pH of from 5.0 to 8.0.~~

39. (New) A thrombin preparation comprising thrombin and a noncovalently binding inhibitor of thrombin activity as stabilizer, and wherein, after at least 12 months of storage at 20-25 °C in the liquid state, the thrombin activity of the preparation, measured by a coagulation test with a fibrinogen substrate, is at least 70% of its initial level prior to the storage.

40. (New) The preparation of claim 39, in which the thrombin activity, after at least 12 months of storage at 20-25 °C in the liquid state, is at least 80% of its initial level prior to the storage.

41. (New) The preparation of claim 39, in which the thrombin activity, after at least 12 months of storage at 20-25 °C in the liquid state, is at least 90% of its initial level prior to the storage.

42. (New) The preparation of claim 39, in which the thrombin activity, after at least 24 months of storage at 20-25 °C in the liquid state, is at least 70% of its initial level prior to the storage.

43. (New) The preparation of claim 39, in which the thrombin activity, after at least 24 months of storage at 20-25 °C in the liquid state, is at least 80% of its initial level prior to the storage.

44. (New) The preparation of claim 39, in which the thrombin activity, after at least 24 months of storage at 20-25 °C in the liquid state, is at least 90% of its initial level prior to the storage.

45. (New) The preparation of claim 39, wherein the noncovalently binding inhibitor of thrombin activity is benzamidine.

46. (New) The preparation of claim 39, wherein the noncovalently binding inhibitor of thrombin activity is p-aminobenzamidine.

47. (New) The preparation of claim 39, wherein the pH of the preparation is from 5.0 to 8.0.

48. (New) The preparation of claim 39, comprising a maximum of 2% (w/v) polyalcohol.

49. (New) A thrombin preparation comprising thrombin and a noncovalently binding inhibitor of thrombin activity as stabilizer, and further comprising a soluble calcium salt, sodium chloride as stabilizer, a buffer substance, and at least one of

a sugar,

a sugar alcohol,

an amino acid,

a salt of a mono- or polycarboxylic acid, or

a salt of a mono- or polyhydroxycarboxylic acid,

wherein, after at least 12 months of storage at 20-25 °C in the liquid state, the thrombin activity of the preparation, measured by a coagulation test with a fibrinogen substrate, is at least 70% of its initial level prior to the storage.

50. (New) The preparation of claim 49, in which the thrombin activity, after at least 12 months of storage at 20-25 °C in the liquid state, is at least 80% of its initial level prior to the storage.

51. (New) The preparation of claim 49, in which the thrombin activity, after at least 12 months of storage at 20-25 °C in the liquid state, is at least 90% of its initial level prior to the storage.

52. (New) The preparation of claim 49, in which the thrombin activity, after at least 24 months of storage at 20-25 °C in the liquid state, is at least 70% of its initial level prior to the storage.

53. (New) The preparation of claim 49, in which the thrombin activity, after at least 24 months of storage at 20-25 °C in the liquid state, is at least 80% of its initial level prior to the storage.

54. (New) The preparation of claim 49, in which the thrombin activity, after at least 24 months of storage at 20-25 °C in the liquid state, is at least 90% of its initial level prior to the storage.

55. (New) The preparation of claim 49, wherein the noncovalently binding inhibitor of thrombin activity is benzamidine.

56. (New) The preparation of claim 49, wherein the noncovalently binding inhibitor of thrombin activity is p-aminobenzamidine.

57. (New) The preparation of claim 49, wherein the pH of the preparation is from 5.0 to 8.0.

58. (New) The preparation of claim 49, comprising a maximum of 2% (w/v) polyalcohol.